

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 147748

47

ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 IO-03 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-01 RSC-01

/025 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 063556

R 092200Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 147748

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS STATE 147748

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 9, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE LATEST ISRAELI
RAID ON LEBANESE TERRITORY?

A. AS WE HAVE SAID HERE REPEATEDLY IN THE PAST WEEKS, WE
DEPLORE THE ACTION/REACTION CYCLE OF VIOLENCE WHICH EMBIT-
TERS ATTITUDES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND COULD UNDERMINE THE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS FOR A GENUINE SETTLEMENT.

AS WE HAVE ALSO SAID REPEATEDLY, THE UNITED STATES DESIRES
TO CALM THE SITUATION. WE ARE WATCHING THE SITUATION
CLOSELY BUT I CAN ADD NOTHING TO WHAT I HAVE SAID HERE.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGREE WITH THIS CHARGE' SOME-
BODY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHO ACTED AS A TRAVEL AGENT FOR
MR. AGNEW?

A. WELL, WE KNEW IN ADVANCE THAT MR. AGNEW WAS GOING ON
THIS TRIP AS A BUSINESSMAN, AND BEFORE HE LEFT, HE WAS
INFORMED THAT HE COULD EXPECT APPROPRIATE COURTESIES

NORMALLY EXTENDED TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TRAVELING ABROAD
-- AND JOURNALISTS, I MIGHT ADD.

IT WAS ALSO INDICATED THAT HE SHOULD NOT EXPECT ASSISTANCE
SUCH AS BEING MET AT THE AIRPORT, BEING PROVIDED A CAR, AN
ESCORT OFFICER, OR SECURITY.

THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT BY OUR POSTS ABROAD,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 147748

AND I BELIEVE THAT ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION.

Q. WELL, WERE THEY CARRIED OUT?

Q. -- THAT HE REQUESTED A CAR AND AN ESCORT OFFICER?

A. THAT ASPECT OF THE STORY WAS ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE FACT
THAT THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION IN THAT MRS. AGNEW

HAD SUDDENLY TO GO INTO THE HOSPITAL FOR A SERIOUS OPERATION. IN THE EVENT, OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT HAS INFORMED US THAT IT DID NOT PROVIDE THOSE SERVICES TO MR. AGNEW -- AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, HE WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY A PRIVATE BUSINESS CONTACT -- THAT HE ALREADY HAD RESERVATIONS, PRESUMABLY THROUGH THIS INDIVIDUAL IN BEIRUT -- AND THAT ON HIS FLIGHT HOME HE WAS PICKED UP AT HIS HOTEL BY PAN AMERICAN, WHICH TOOK HIM TO THE AIRPORT.

Q. IF THIS CABLE IS AVAILABLE TO ONE NEWSPAPER, COULD IT NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE REST OF US?

A. I FEEL UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO DO THAT BECAUSE I AM CONFIDENT I DID NOT PROVIDE THAT CABLE TO ONE NEWSPAPER. BUT THERE IS ONE THING ABOUT THAT, THAT I WANT TO SAY:

THE NEWSPAPER VERSION HAD A "CONFIDENTIAL" CLASSIFICATION ON THE TELEGRAM -- AND THAT TELEGRAM WAS NOT CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL. IT WAS THE LOWEST COMMON CLASSIFICATION DENOMINATOR, CALLED "LIMITED OFFICIAL USE," WHICH IS A CLASSIFICATION USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS.

Q. WELL DOES THAT MEAN IT IS PUBLIC, IT'S A PUBLIC DOCUMENT?

A. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, EXPLAINING -- AND THIS MAY BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT, BUT -- "CONFIDENTIAL" HAS TO BE PUT ON ANY TELEGRAM, TO GET IT INTO A COMPUTER, WHICH IS THE SYSTEM USED.

BUT WHEN IT COMES OUT ON THIS END, IT CARRIES NO SUCH DESIGNATION.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 147748

INDEED, THE COPY OF THE TELEGRAM THAT I HAVE, DOESN'T SHOW "CONFIDENTIAL" IT'S A STRAIGHT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROUTINE TELEGRAM.

Q. YOU SAID THAT BEFORE AGNEW LEFT, HE WAS INFORMED THAT HE COULD EXPECT ONLY THE "APPROPRIATE" COURTESIES.

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. HAVING BEEN INFORMED ALONG THOSE LINES, DID HE THEN RECEIVE ANYTHING ELSE, IN ADDITION?

A. I AM TOLD THAT HE DID NOT, EXCEPT WHEN IT DEVELOPED THAT HIS WIFE HAD TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL, AND EMBASSY KUWAIT PUT THAT REQUEST TO BEIRUT. BUT IN ANY EVENT, AS

I TOLD YOU, IT WAS ALL TAKEN CARE OF FOR HIM ANYHOW.

Q. AS I RECALL THE CABLE -- WHAT WAS IT -- MC CLELLAND SIGNED IT?

A. YES.

Q. HE DIDN'T ASK FOR THE COURTESIES, HE SIMPLY RELAYED --

A. HE RELAYED MR. AGNEW'S REQUEST.

Q. WHICH IS QUITE IN LINE WITH YOUR POSITION.

A. EXACTLY.

Q. AND BEIRUT RECEIVED YOUR ORDERS AND DID NOT PROVIDE THEM. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT?

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. I'M A LITTLE CURIOUS ABOUT MR. AGNEW'S POSITION AS A VIP, AND AS AN "ORDINARY BUSINESSMAN" OR HOWEVER YOU DESCRIBED HIM. DO FELONS NORMALLY GET THE KIND OF COURTESY AFFORDED OTHER BUSINESSMEN?

A. MR. AGNEW IS AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN TRAVELING ABROAD, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 147748

AND AS SUCH, COULD EXPECT TO OBTAIN THE APPROPRIATE COURTESIES THAT AMERICANS IN THAT CATEGORY GET.

Q. WAS THE SECRETARY AWARE OF HIS TRAVEL PLANS ON THIS TRIP?

A. I SAID, WE KNEW ABOUT IT BEFOREHAND.

Q. BUT WAS THE SECRETARY, HIMSELF, AWARE OF THIS?

A. I CAN'T SAY. I ASSUME SO.

Q. DO THE APPROPRIATE COURTESIES THAT YOU MENTIONED, INCLUDE SUCH THINGS AS MAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR SUCH A BUSINESSMAN WITH HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN OTHER COUNTRIES? IN PARTICULAR, APPARENTLY HIS APPOINTMENTS WITH BOTH KING FAISAL AND HUSSEIN.

A. THEY DO NOT.

Q. WERE THESE APPOINTMENTS IN THIS CASE, ARRANGED THROUGH ANY U.S. OFFICIAL CHANNELS?

A. THEY WERE ARRANGED THROUGH HIS PRIVATE CONTACTS, AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

Q. LET ME JUST STRAIGHTEN OUT ONE THING ON THAT AGNEW THING?

YOU LEFT ME WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT IF I, OR ANYBODY, REQUESTS A CAR AND A DRIVER, AND AN ESCORT OFFICER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL AUTOMATICALLY TRANSMIT THAT TO THE POST IN THE FIELD?

A. NO, SIR.

Q. WELL THEN, HOW IS IT THAT THIS REQUEST WAS TRANSMITTED -- EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT SERVICE AUTHORIZED?

A. WELL APPARENTLY, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HE WAS IN KUWAIT. HE HAD AN ITINERARY, A SCHEDULE, TO FOLLOW AND THAT SCHEDULE HAD TO BE INTERRUPTED BECAUSE OF MRS. AGNEW'S UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 147748

EMERGENCY SURGERY. SO HE HAD TO DISRUPT THE SCHEDULE TO RETURN HOME.

TO GET FROM KUWAIT TO BEIRUT, HE SOUGHT THAT ASSISTANCE TO GET TO BEIRUT AND THEN ON HOME.

Q. BUT WHY -- IF ANY BUSINESSMAN HAD TO ASKED TO HAVE THE KUWAIT EMBASSY TRANSMIT TO BEIRUT A REQUEST FOR A CAR AND A DRIVER -- WOULD IT HAVE BEEN DONE? WOULD EVEN THE REQUEST HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED?

Q. IN PLAIN ENGLISH, DID MC CLELLAND MAKE A MISTAKE IN FORWARDING THIS REQUEST AT ALL?

SHOULDN'T HE HAVE TOLD AGNEW, "SORRY, BUDDY, THIS IS AGAINST THE REGULATIONS?"

A. I DON'T KNOW, BUT I WOULD SAY THAT COMMON SENSE WOULD APPLY HERE. HE HAD AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

Q. YES, THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.

A. I DON'T REALLY SEE ANY BIG DEAL HERE.

Q. WHAT ARE THE REGULATIONS -- YOU SPOKE OF BUSINESSMEN, JOURNALISTS ETCETERA --

I THINK SOME OF US HAVE HAD EXPERIENCES OF GETTING EXTREMELY ACCOMMODATING TREATMENT ON FOREIGN POSTS FROM THE

U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE.

WHERE DO YOU DRAW THE LINE WITH ESCORTS AND CARS AND
APPOINTMENT-MAKING AND SO ON?

DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH FRIENDSHIP?

A. NO, IN MY EXPERIENCE, WELL "AN APPROPRIATE COURTESY"
IS JUST THAT IT'S SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE IN THE JUDG-
MENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER AT A POST -- AND CARS AND
ESCORTS AND APPOINTMENTS WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND SO
ON WOULD NOT BE AN "APPROPRIATE" COURTESY. END QUOTE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 147748

KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, BUSINESSMEN, PRESS CONFERENCES, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE147748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GFSHERMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740183-0587
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740763/aaaacclm.tel
Line Count: 296
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
TAGS: PFOR, XF, FEDAYEEN, (AGNEW, SPIRO T)
To: AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005